



The Town of Knightdale Staff Report

Date: January 9, 2017

To: Land Use Review Board

From: Matt Watterson, Planner

Subject: FY 2018 Street Tree Planting Project

Administrative Services Director
Signature – CAH

Town Manager Signature –

Background:

The street tree project program helps the Town to meet the eligibility standards of remaining a Tree City USA. The process begins by LURB selecting a corridor to study for consideration. At the December 12, 2016 Land Use Review Board Meeting, LURB selected Princeton Town Street as the corridor to investigate for the FY18 street tree planting project. Staff has since verified through the 811 service that there are no issues related to underground utilities that would affect this tree planting project, and has conducted field visits and research to further assess the planting site and the soil types. Staff is currently continuing due diligence in terms of project cost, Princeton Manor HOA consultation, and tree type.

Planting Plan:

Given the topography, soil type, available space and envisioned tree numbers, and necessity to keep the greenway clear of fruits and other debris when possible, staff has narrowed the proposed tree planting down to three types – the Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*), Chinese Pistachio (*Pistacia chinensis*), or Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*). These trees were selected based on their suitable widths at maturity for the amount of space available, as well as their suitability regarding climate, topography, and soil type.

Staff is requesting that LURB rank their top two tree selections for staff to pursue pricing. Once staff has this recommendation, we will begin contacting local tree nurseries to assess availability and project cost. Understanding the project budget will allow staff to present the street tree project to the Finance Committee during the budget process so it may compete for funds.

REPORT RECOMMENDED ACTION

Select 1st and 2nd tree type preference for FY 2018 Tree Planting along Princeton Town Street.